

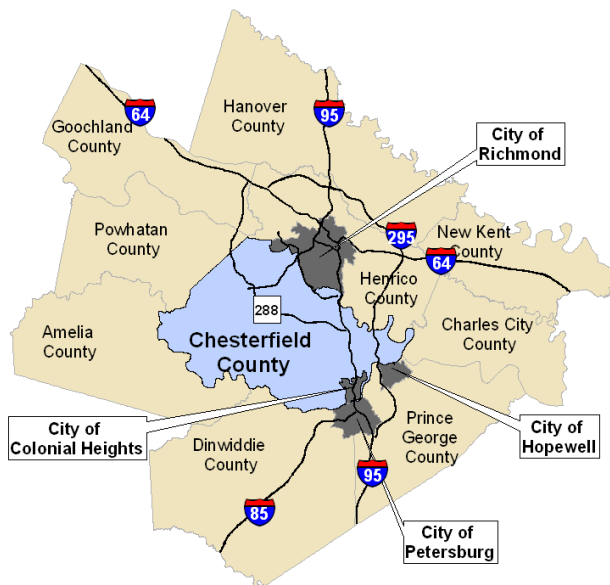
DRAFT CHAPTER 2: WELCOME TO CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Welcome

Over the centuries, Chesterfield County has grown into an attractive, vibrant and diverse community. Today, Chesterfield County is home to approximately 340,000 (estimate as of 1/1/17) people within its 446 square miles and is poised to lead the region as a fiscally sound and desirable place to live, work and shop. The county is dedicated to providing leadership, focus and defined direction to maintain the highest quality of life and to always be worthy of the public's trust in sustaining Chesterfield County as a "First Choice" community. Chesterfield County is a nationally recognized leader in local government.

Location

Located in the heart of central Virginia, Chesterfield County is accessible to markets throughout the eastern United States by way of major roads which pass through the county including Chippenham Parkway, Powhite Parkway, Route 288, and Interstates 95, 295 and 895; the Chesterfield County Airport; Amtrak service via Ettrick Station; and the navigable James River. In fact, the county is within a one-day drive of 50 percent of the U.S. population. This location, combined with the high quality of life, makes Chesterfield County a desirable destination for businesses, residents and visitors.



Chesterfield County is bounded by the James River to the north, Appomattox River to the west and south, and confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers to the east. Adjoining jurisdictions include the cities of Richmond, Petersburg, Hopewell and Colonial Heights, and the counties of Goochland, Henrico, Charles City, Prince George, Dinwiddie, Amelia and Powhatan.

History

In the 17th century, European colonists from Jamestown arrived in what would become Chesterfield County, seeking to establish a second permanent English settlement in Virginia near the fall line of the James River. Here they found ‘a good air, wholesome and clear, fresh and plentiful water springs, much fair and open grounds - and wood enough at hand’. The colonists built homes and fortifications on what is known today as Farrar’s Island, naming the community the “Citie of Henricus”. Other settlers followed, establishing plantations, farms and villages, and manufacturing and transportation centers along the James and Appomattox Rivers.

At the time of its official formation in 1749, Chesterfield County was a community of farms and small settlements. The James and Appomattox Rivers provided valuable transportation arteries. Many settlements such as Warwick, Bermuda Hundred, Osbornes and Port Walthall were established along the river banks. Soon transportation improvements such as roads and railways gave rise to manufacturing centers along the rivers and roads, changing the economic and social landscape of the county. Over time, parts of the county transitioned from a rural to a suburban community. Today the county has a diversity of working and living choices ranging from rural to suburban to urban environments.

